



Leytonstone goalkeeper Dave Danson watches anxiously as this shot from Paul Birdseye (out of picture) goes just past his right post during Saturday's Isthmian League match which Wycombe won 2-0.

Blues top four target

WYCOMBE start the busy three-match Easter programme with their first meeting this season with Tilbury, at Loakes Park tomorrow (Good Friday).

Although out of the championship race, barring a near miracle, Wanderers will want to keep picking up the Berger Isthmian League points to

avoid having their worst season for ten years.

During the past decade, Blues have never been out of the top four and Andy Williams will be particularly keen not to break that sequence in his first season.

Tilbury, strangely enough, have scored more goals than the Blues this season, with former amateur international Ken Gray leading the way with

18. But it is at the other end of the field that they have been having their problems. This is despite the signing from Dagenham of right-back Paul Currie, younger brother of the England international Tony.

The East London side have their minds on the Essex Senior Cup having just reached the final with a 2-1 victory over a strong Southend side in the semi-final.

On Saturday Wycombe travel to play Leatherhead, who have lost their way this season after a good start. The teams have already met twice at Loakes Park this season. Blues won the League game but the Tanners triumphed in the Hitachi Cup-tie.

The Easter programme is completed on Monday with the Senior Cup final against Hungerford at Marlow.

Wycombe aim to wipe slate clean

Senior Cup preview by MICHAEL KNOX

WYCOMBE Wanderers biggest shock in the past decade came two years ago when they were bundled out of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup by the small Hellenic League Club, Hungerford Town.

A 4-2 victory over the Berkshire side in last season's competition went some way to erasing the memory of that disaster but the slate will only be wiped clean if they beat Hungerford in this year's final to be played at Marlow on Monday.

A lot has happened to Hungerford since that memorable day in March 1977 as can be judged by the fact that only three of the players who took part in that great win are still with the club. They are mid-field man Chris Gwynn, tricky winger John Ashton and the current manager Jimmy Kelman.

In the meantime they have been elected to the Isthmian League Division Two where they stand in mid-table. This is a remarkable achievement considering that the average age of the side is under 20 years.

This is a deliberate policy by the club who have only one contract player. The rest of the team get legitimate expenses only, although they are well looked after.

Three left

Understandably this policy did not suit all the players and three left midway through the season, namely David Ingram, the two goal hero of 1977 and his brother Tony who have gone to Wokingham Town, and striker

Ian Farr who signed for Trowbridge.

That leaves Kelman with probably the youngest ever squad to reach the Senior Cup final. But he is said to be a brilliant coach especially of youngsters, and to have welded his side into a distinctly useful unit.

Six members of the team are still teenagers, including goalkeeper Steve Crocker and defenders Warren Angell and Dean Bailey.

The defence that has struggled in the league this season, but the recent signing of Paul Duffy, the one man on contract, has added a bit of stability.

Surprisingly in their cup run to reach the final, Hungerford have conceded just the one goal in four matches. Their victims so far have been Hazells (3-0), Holmer Green (6-0), Aylesbury United (2-1), and in the semi-final Aylesbury scored came from the penalty spot.

During the past four years, Hungerford have a record in this competition, which is second to none. This is their third time in the final during that time, although they have yet to win. In 1976 they defeated Slough in the semi-final only to lose 4-0 to Chesham United, while the next year they threw away a golden chance of beating Slough in the final itself.

With five minutes left and leading 1-0, they were awarded a penalty which would have sewn up the game. However, they missed. Slough equalised and went on to win 2-1 in extra time. So they will be keen to make it third time lucky this time.

Wycombe, the current holders of the trophy, are still likely to be without John Priestley, despite his recent improvement from a knee injury, while Les Reed will be away on a skiing holiday.

Marlow officials have pointed out that parking inside the ground will be for players and officials only. The public car park will be on the neighbouring training ground, the entrance of which is in Wethered Road.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

(Up to April 7)

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barking	32	20	8	5	69	45	68
Slough	36	19	9	8	55	38	66
Dulwich	35	18	11	6	61	31	65
Dagenham	34	20	5	9	66	61	65
Enfield	30	19	9	6	56	29	60
Wycombe	34	17	7	10	61	34	58
Croydon	33	16	8	9	48	33	56
Woking	34	14	11	9	55	49	53
Hendon	36	13	12	11	43	40	51
Sutton	36	14	8	14	53	44	50
Lestaharhead	34	14	7	13	47	38	49
Tooting	36	12	12	12	46	48	48
Hitchin Town	37	12	10	15	55	61	48
Boreham Wood	37	12	9	16	46	60	45
Tilbury	36	11	10	15	54	68	43
Oxford City	37	12	7	18	46	68	43
Walthamstow	34	12	5	17	49	60	41
Hayes	35	7	15	13	36	48	36
Carshalton	33	8	11	14	38	55	35
Staines	35	6	14	15	37	53	32
Leytonstone	37	5	7	25	30	69	22
Kingstonian	38	3	12	23	29	63	21

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge	30	19	7	4	69	28	64
Farnborough	26	20	3	3	57	26	63
Motsey	27	16	10	1	45	23	58
Lewes	28	16	6	6	52	36	54
Leitchworth	30	12	10	8	48	39	46
Hemel	29	12	9	8	43	33	45
Rainham	29	11	10	8	37	33	43
Epping	28	12	5	12	43	38	41
Cheshunt	27	11	8	10	37	35	39
Eastbourne	27	12	3	12	35	39	38
Hungerford	31	11	8	14	48	53	39
Feltham	24	9	7	8	33	28	34
Hornchurch	30	8	8	14	33	54	32
Worthing	27	6	6	15	32	46	24
Widened	31	6	7	19	38	71	22
Egham	28	4	9	15	43	51	21
Tring	26	5	6	15	29	47	21
Casuals	25	3	2	20	16	52	11